

# The Big Stone Gap Post.

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No. 21

## Athletic Association

### Reorganized at Interesting Meeting of Young Men's Club.

The meeting of the Young Men's Club began informally last Friday evening to discuss the matter of the re-organization of the Athletic Association, with new officers to be appointed and the terms be arranged for the paying of the salaries of professionals and others.

The work of the committee appointed at the preceding meeting of the club had resulted in getting 41 men to sign notes for \$50.00 guaranteeing the money necessary to carry the expenses of maintaining a baseball club through the season. It was moved that the chair appoint a solicitor to get more names in order to make up the estimated amount necessary to be guaranteed, this being about \$2,000.00. Mr. R. E. Taggart was selected to get these names.

On a question from the floor as to the history and purpose of the Athletic Association, Mr. R. B. Alcover outlined the former and stated the latter briefly and to the point. He said the original purpose of the association was to promote athletic sports, and that, while for a number of years the amusement feature of its fourth of July celebration had claimed its greatest attention and absorbed most of its profits, gradually the athletic side of its life had come to the fore in recent years. This had been made practicable through the efforts of the Messrs. Taggart to stir up a spirit of rival sportsmanship between the different coal-camps in the baseball world. These efforts having been attended with a considerable measure of success, had caused the forming of the Coalfields Athletic League of Virginia. Mr. Alcover moreover stated that up to 1906 inclusive the association had failed to make expenses, and that in 1907 all past debts were cleaned up. Since then, however, it had had to undergo considerable financial losses and as a result the Town Council held notes amounting to \$1,000.00 against the association.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of a new president. Nominations being in order, Mr. R. E. Taggart was nominated, and the nomination being seconded, he was elected unanimously, he consenting, as he expressed it, with that quizzical smile, "to be the goat." Taking the chair Mr. Taggart declared nominations open for the election of the other officers, namely, 1st vice president, secretary and treasurer. The following men were elected. Mr. W. H. Wren, for 1st vice president, Mr. Guy Patrick for secretary, and Mr. W. S. Miller for treasurer. The latter's election was assured by 2 votes over those cast for Mr. G. L. Taylor, who had also been nominated, there being 24 votes cast. It was then moved that all ex-presidents of the association be made assistant vice-presidents to lend their good advice and time and weight to the deliberations of the association.

The chair then turned the meeting over to the Young Men's Club once more to proceed with the regular business before the meeting. After the reading of the minutes had been approved the reports of

committees were heard. The committee of which Mr. A. L. Witt had been appointed chairman was declared discharged and a new one was appointed in its place, consisting of Mr. E. A. Compton, Mr. Lindsey Horton, and Mr. M. E. Oetkin. This committee is to advertise the existence and purpose of the Home Building Association for the purpose of getting the men who wish to build or rent into touch with those who wish to make terms agreeable to that end.

Mr. W. G. Coutts, having drawn attention to the presence of three members of the Appalachia Commercial Club at the meeting, President Sayers extended the courtesy of the evening to them, and asked that they state the purpose of this club. Mr. Carruthers, as their spokesman, stated that the purpose of the club was to get an effort on foot to build a road over to Lynch, Ky. He added that their meeting was on next Thursday, and that they expected to have some music and a speech from Mr. Roberts, of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and that they would like to have the Young Men's Club as their guests for the evening. A motion endorsing the purpose of the Appalachia Club was made and carried. It was further urged that the two candidates for supervisors be induced to commit themselves to do everything in their power to promote this plan to broaden out our field of interests into another state. A committee of five was appointed to attend the meeting on Thursday, others present expressing their desire to be there also.

Before the meeting closed Mr. Owen R. Easley made a glowing and earnest appeal for the increase of the teachers' salaries to amount that would be at least a living wage for the high calling of guiding children along the path of life during their most impressionable age. Persons of the highest quality could not be gotten for what was now being paid to some of the teachers, Mr. Easley said, adding that not only did we owe gratitude to co-operation and sympathy with the teacher but we owed those who had our children in keeping, mind, body and soul, for these tender years, we owed them, he said, enough to live decently on. In the final analysis he said the whole matter came back to the tax-payers, adding that unless something was done soon we would not be able to keep what teachers were had.

The outcome of the discussion following Mr. Easley's burning challenge to the good faith of our citizens, and it was a most animated and enlightening discussion as to the financial methods employed by the Town Council and the present condition of the Town's finances, was that a committee be appointed to confer with the School Board, and then to interview the Financial Committee of the Town Council. This committee consisted of Mr. C. E. Burchfield, Mr. E. J. Prescott, Mr. R. B. Alcover and the president, D. B. Sayers. The meeting adjourned directly after this matter had been settled at about 10.35.

For the next forty years the American Legion will occupy the place which the G. A. R. formerly held. And thank God, their watchword is "100 Americanism."

Germany has heard of Mr. Hoover, and will probably be delighted to meet him.

## Pike Road

### Across the Mountain to Lynch Badly Needed.

E. V. Albert, L. A. Billips and Dr. W. E. Riley, superintendent, division engineer and chief surgeon, respectively, of the United States Coal & Coke Company at Lynch, Ky., were visitors to Big Stone Gap on last Wednesday afternoon. These gentlemen are very much interested in building a road across the mountain to connect that place with Wise County and say that the United States Coal & Coke Company will build to the Virginia line whenever Wise County consents to build its part of the road to connect with the pike at Linden. The coal plant at Lynch is one of the largest in Kentucky and the town now has a population of several thousand people and these gentlemen say it will have fully ten thousand within the next five years.

The road across the mountain would be of great benefit not only to the people of Lynch but to this section also and plans are now being discussed whereby the necessary funds can be secured to build the road.

The Business Club of Appalachia and the Young Men's Club of Big Stone Gap, have both pledged their support in this much needed project.

## Camp for Boys

Camp Kent, the State Y. M. C. A. Camp for Virginia Boys, is open about the middle of June according to an announcement just made at the headquarters of the state executive committee in Richmond. For several years boys from all parts of the state have been spending two weeks or more of the summer vacation; swimming, mountain climbing, hiking, eating, sleeping and living in the open air at Camp Kent.

The Camp is located in Rockbridge county seven miles from the world famous Natural Bridge of Virginia. The boys sleep in wooden huts. They have their meals in an open pavilion. They swim in a pond made by damming Opossum Creek with a concrete dam two hundred feet long. Under the diving stage there is twelve feet of water and the whole pool covers about an acre.

The Camp is owned and operated by the state executive committee of the Y. M. C. A. and boys over twelve years of age are eligible.

Inquiries concerning the Camp may be addressed to 902 Chamber Commerce Building, Richmond, Va.

## Capture Whiskey.

Officers Frank Carter, Marshall Belcher, Isaac Belcher, P. M. Reaser and Chief Police Kelly made a raid on the home of Alpha Sturgill late last Friday night and confiscated twenty one gallons of moonshine whiskey. The Sturgill woman, accompanied by two men were just returning home with a supply of whiskey in a car and on arriving at the house they were arrested. They were arraigned before Mayor Horsley and upon confessing were each fined \$50 and costs. They were also bonded to appear at the next term of county court.

## Birth Announcement.

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Ginther announce the birth of fine baby girl at their home on last Tuesday morning in Louisville, Ky. The little one has been named Helen Turner Ginther. Mrs. Ginther was formerly Miss Mabel Quillin, of this place, and is well known to a large circle of friends in the Gap.

## A Surprise

### A Study in Crowd Psychology.

The other night, yes, it was a week ago to-day, the Theatre in town was crowded, nearly packed, indeed, with the best people in the town, too.

You see, the show had been advertised, and the price had been raised a little also. Therefore the crowd! And curiously enough every man had his wife with him. This was the interesting feature. Naturally you would have thought that Mary Pickford or even Charlie Chaplin was playing. At least it might have been a Government "War Picture." But no, the actors were not especially well known, and the government had no part at all in featuring this interesting movie.

The attraction was all in the name of the show. It was called "For Husbands Only." The posters showed the actors in the role of society folks. That was enough if not too much for our good, gossip towns-people. Of course some were there as they always are night after night, but we have the word of an authoritative source that there were numbers there who had not seen the inside of the theatre for weeks and months. A large majority of people came to see something, they didn't know what, but at least something that would prove interesting, shall we say from a suggestive point of view.

From Mr. and Mrs. A. to Mr. and Mrs. E. Z., all were there. The bachelor, too, of high and low degree. They expected to see some fun. A few honest people came to be educated or perhaps enlightened. But they were few and far between, no doubt.

Wonder of wonders, it was the honest people who were surprised and the others, we will not call their names, who were enlightened and educated. There were no scandalous scenes strictly speaking, in fact the motif of the play was highly moral, and when the spectators felt that thrill coming on at certain times, when they didn't see how a scandalous scene or a suggestive word or act could be avoided, the tables were turned most naturally, both upon the villain and upon the spectators themselves, unexpected though this turn of affairs seemed to be.

Imagine, then, if you will all those worldly and sophisticated people of our social set who were either disappointed or, and we give them the benefit of the doubt, who accused themselves in their heart of hearts of being attracted by a suggestive play. In short the thing was a surprise, and a very good one too, for it revealed the superficiality of the social and religious pretention of people that like suggestive plays on both stage and screen alike, and yet outwardly are horrified, scandalized by advancing parson or a rank socialist.

A morbid curiosity characterizes all effete civilizations, a curiosity which shuns disease and poverty, or feeds them from tables laden with delicacies, but at only at a distance.

We are proud of being Americans, and it is right and proper that we would be proud, but when we stop and look beneath the surface of the people's outward behavior to-day, when we see conditions all around us which are indicative of decay and change, of discontent among the wage-earners, and the like we cannot but feel that our pride liable to precede a fall. And all this because of one little incident in a little town of Southwest Virginia, an incident, indeed, that is repeated wherever a crowd gathers to see one of the best little movies we have seen in a quite while, "For Husbands Only."

Grady V. Kelly, formerly of Gate City, and at present book-keeper for the United States Coal & Coke Company, was united in marriage to Miss Nancy McChesney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee McChesney, at Bristol Thursday. They spent Saturday in Gate City the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. S. Lee. —Gate City Herald.

## Closing Exercises

### Of Wise High School May 29-June 2.

May 29, at 8:30 p. m. entertainment by the primary and intermediate grades.

May 30, at 8:30 p. m. program by the Nightingale Literary Society. One feature will be a contest in reading for a medal given by Judge W. H. Bond. The following young ladies will contest for this medal: Misses Helena Slem, Nannie Daugherty, Geneva Blackwell, Rose Richardson, Fay Roberts, Lillian Swank, Edmona Swidall and Letha Dotson.

May 31, at 8:30 p. m. program by the Phoenix Literary Society. Debate for medal given by Congressman Slem.

Resolved: That our government should proceed immediately to own the railroads of the country:

Affirmative—Ralph McEmore—Burns Fulton.

Negative—James Lipps—Hobart Miller.

Contest in declamation for medal given by Mayor E. L. Barr. Contestants: Aubrey Killen, Paul Hill, Willie Hylton, Lance Dotson, McGurie Dale, Rufus Fulton and Winslow Barker.

June 1, 11 a. m. Annual Sermon by Dr. Charles C. Weaver, President of Emory and Henry College.

June 2, 8:30 p. m. graduating exercises. Literary address by Prof. William E. Gilbert, of Radford Normal School. Reading of promotions and awarding of diplomas. The senior class consists of Misses Idah Taylor and Kathryn Kilgore, Messrs. Ralph McEmore, Robert Miller and James Lipps.

## Major Strong and Wife Visits Big Stone Gap.

Major Thos. J. Strong, M. C. U. S. Army, accompanied by his wife, spent last week in Big Stone Gap on a visit to Mrs. Strong's brother, E. F. Burgess and family.

Major Strong is an officer of several years experience in the army and recently returned from France and Germany with the Army of Occupation. He helped organize and train units of the famous "T.O." (Texas-Oklahoma) 90th Division, and accompanied this division to France nearly a year ago, and was on the Western Front battle line from August till November 11th.

The 90th went over the top nine times and was an active participant in all the great battles from St. Mihiel to the terrific Meuse-Argonne offensive, including the Batheville, Septarges, Romagne Farm, Hill 302, Grand Gare Farms, Ouisy and Montfaucon battles; and the Major was slightly gassed, injured in the hip, and has lost part of a finger, and is thankful to have escaped worse injuries, as his units were bombed from the air as well as by high explosive shells.

The personnel of the 90th Division was composed of men from the ranges and ranches of Texas and Oklahoma, and were noted for their splendid physique, courage, marksmanship, and endurance, and many of these men are the recipients of the D. S. C. and other decorations, and the division has been cited in official orders, and highly commended several times for gallantry and heroism in action, and that it bore the brunt of heavy fighting for seventy-four days without relief, is shown by its total losses and casualties of over 6600 men and 265 officers, and capturing nearly 2000 German prisoners, vast quantities of guns, ammunitions, stores and supplies.

The 90th was fighting hard on the last day when it took Stenny,

was promptly made a part of the 3rd, or Army of Occupation, and is now stationed along the Moselle River, south of Coblenz in Germany, and is booked to return in June.

## SENATOR SWANSON SIZES UP ROAD SYSTEM

"Yet, Mr. President, with all these wonderful material advantages," said Senator Claude A. Swanson when discussing America's road system in Congress recently, "it is admitted today that we have the poorest system of public roads and highways of any civilized nation."

"We have today, roughly estimating, 2,500,000 miles of highway in the United States, and of this mileage about 296,000 miles, or 12 percent of the total, are surface roads. No other civilized nation possesses such a wretched condition of public highways."

"With our wonderful energy display in every other field of human endeavor, with our amazing wealth, there is no justification for such wretched road conditions."

"Our energy and our money have been generously expended in every other direction except in the betterment of the highways."

"After careful examination and thoughtful consideration of this subject, I am satisfied that our neglect in this respect has been one of the greatest misfortunes that has affected us as a people and should be remedied as quickly as possible."

## Engagement Announcement of Interest Here.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Aston, of Lebanon, Va., announced in the Bristol Herald Courier last Wednesday the engagement of their oldest daughter, Miss Margaret Aston, to Mr. James M. Barker, Jr., son of Col. and Mrs. J. M. Barker, Sr., of Bristol. The wedding will take place at the Aston home in Lebanon in June.

Both Miss Aston and Mr. Barker are well known in the Gap, having spent a great deal of time here. Miss Aston, the guest of Mrs. Josh Ballitt, Jr., who was formerly Miss Margaret Pettit, and Mr. Barker having been the guest of his cousin, Harry J. Ayers, a number of times in the Gap.

## Missionary Meeting.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, South, met in regular monthly session Thursday afternoon, May 1st, at the home of Mrs. W. H. Carnes, with thirteen members in attendance. A number of visitors were present and four new names were enrolled. Mrs. T. J. Christy, president, presided. The meeting opened by the singing of the hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers." Mrs. Christy led in prayer. Mrs. I. C. Taylor read some very interesting extracts from the "Bulletin." Very good reports were made by the officers. Mrs. I. C. Taylor led the devotional program using for the Bible lesson verses from the ninth chapter of Luke. Mrs. J. B. Wampler read a very interesting paper: "The Task of the Church, a Present Day Task." Mrs. T. J. Christy read: "What we Have in Brazil, and What we Propose to do in Brazil." Mrs. Wren sang a beautiful solo. "God Will Take Care of You." During the social hour the hostess, assisted by Mrs. W. A. Baker, Mrs. Crill and Mrs. Hugh Carnes served delicious ice cream, cake and home-made candies and we were adjourned to meet in June with Mrs. J. A. Gilmer.

Mrs. G. C. HONEYCUTT, Supt. Pub.

The farmer has heard the injunction to "raise food," and that is an excellent thing. But unfortunately the profiteer has heard it too.